

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Country Inn & Suites
6511 Centurion Drive, Lansing
June 16, 2006
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Chairperson Kennedy reinforced the purpose and primary role of the Commission. Chairperson Kennedy thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Chairperson Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerutha Kennedy, Cheryl Bollinger, Annette Guilfoyle, Sonia Harb, Chun-Keung Leung, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Owen Bieber, Herman Dooha, Rose Gill, Albert Lewis, and Alberta Wilburn

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, Peggy Brey, Laura McMurtry, Cherie Mollison, Neelam Puri, Holliace Spencer, and Sally Steiner

VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT

Tina Abbate Marzolf, Sandra Davis, Christie Tyler, Al Horne, and Luanne Bakk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rau and approved unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Rau made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2006 Commission meeting. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Peggy Brey welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of Director Gire, who was unavailable for today's meeting. Deputy Director Brey updated the group on the activities of Director Gire with the following:

Single Point of Entry (SPE)

Deputy Director Brey stated that on June 5 Governor Granholm announced four groundbreaking awards worth \$34.83 million for Long Term Care Single Point of Entry (SPE) demonstration sites in Michigan. Deputy Director Brey stated the establishment of long-term care SPEs was a key

recommendation in the final report of the Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force, issued in June 2005. Deputy Director Brey announced the selected sites as Detroit, submitted by Detroit Area Agency on Aging (AAA); Southwest Michigan, submitted by Region IV AAA; Upper Peninsula, submitted by Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP); and, Western Michigan, submitted by HHS Health Options and AAA of Western Michigan. Deputy Director stated the Department of Community Health will administer the 27-month demonstration projects.

Budget FY 2007 Update:

Deputy Director Brey stated that work continues on the 2007 state budget. Conference committees have been named to reach consensus on items of difference between the Senate and House versions of the budget bill. There are no changes to OSA's budget with the exception of the House's recommendation to unroll the three volunteer programs that comprise the older volunteer services line item. A flyer with current information on the FY 2007 federal budget is also included in commissioner's folders. Deputy Director Brey also indicated that Director Gire and Chairperson Kennedy sent a joint letter to the Michigan Congressional Delegation regarding proposed cuts to the Community Development Block Grant Program. Deputy Director Brey encouraged all commissioners to write a similar letter.

Elder Abuse Task Force:

Deputy Director Brey stated the Task Force on Elder Abuse is wrapping up its work and drafting the report to submit to the Governor. Their last meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, in East Lansing. Deputy Director Brey asked that Wendi Middleton, OSA Staff, be contacted for more information or questions.

Senior Citizen of the Year

Deputy Director Brey pointed out that a copy of the Senior Citizen of the Year nomination materials was included as part of the materials distributed for today's meeting. Deputy Director Brey announced that OSA is partnering again with the Michigan State Fair and Consumer's Energy to honor two of Michigan's older adults as Senior Citizen of the Year in two categories, leadership and service. The deadline for submission of applications is July 7, 2006. The winners will be announced on Senior Citizens Day at the Michigan State Fair on Monday, August 28.

2007-2009 State Plan

Deputy Director Brey stated that OSA is continuing to work on development of the new 2007-2009 State Plan. Deputy Director Brey also stated that with the pending submission of the Elder Abuse Task Force Report, the announcement of the SPE demonstration grants and OSA's own strategic planning process, OSA is seeking a 2-month extension for submission of the new plan to Administration on Aging (AoA), which will allow OSA to include those very significant areas of importance to the plan.

Presentations

Deputy Director Brey stated that Director Gire has been very busy with the following:

- Director Gire attended Senior Health and Fitness Day on May 31 in Rochester.
- Director Gire did a cable TV interview in Grand Rapids for WKTV.
- Director Gire attended Senior Power Day in Flint.
- Director Gire gave welcoming remarks at the Mental Health and Aging Conference in East Lansing and at the Intergeneration Conference at Madonna University.
- Director Gire also gave a radio interview with WGPR 107.5 FM, Senior Solution radio show hosted by Mr. Paul Bridgewater of Detroit Area Agency on Aging.

- Director Gire attended Ogemaw Commission on Aging and Greater Lansing Farmers Club meetings.
- Director Gire continues to give presentations to local UAW groups.

Deputy Director Brey also stated that Director Gire is more than happy to address any group/event to support/inform/explain to Michigan residence the issues facing older adults and what services are available.

Chairperson Kennedy wanted to express her gratitude to everyone that participated and assisted in the public hearings conducted for development of the 2007-2009 State Plan. Commissioner Harb requested that the Commission receive copies of the 2007-2009 public hearing summaries. Commissioner Guilfoyle informed the Commission regarding a piece of legislation recently introduced by Senator Hardiman regarding assessments and property taxation for non-profit nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Revised FY 2006 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Allocation

Neelam Puri, OSA staff, presented to the Commission the proposed revision to the FY 2006 Allocation for the MMAP core grant awarded to the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan. Ms. Puri stated that following approval of the MMAP grant at the April Commission meeting, OSA received notification from the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) that the 2006 funding level for MMAP was increased by \$6,158. Ms Puri explained the total increase would be issued to the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan as part of the 2006 Statement of Grant Award for MMAP services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the proposed Revised FY 2006 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Allocation and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed with Commissioner Walters asking the source of the additional funds. Ms. Puri explained the funds were coming from CMS and were already included in the Statement of Grant Award issued to OSA.

PY 2006 Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocation

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, gave a brief description on SCSEP stating that it provides part-time employment training for low-income, older persons in community service agencies and assistance with securing unsubsidized employment. Ms. McMurtry stated that Michigan has a PY 2006 performance goal of transitioning at least 24% of SCSEP participants into unsubsidized employment.

Ms. McMurtry stated the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) is currently in the process of selecting national grantees for SCSEP for the new program year. The USDOL has released tentative planning figures for the authorized positions allotted to OSA for PY 2006. However, it is unclear at this point as to how the distribution of the positions should occur without knowledge of who the national sponsors will be or how many positions will be authorized to the selected organizations. As a result, Ms. McMurtry is requesting Commission approval of a continuation of funding to current SCSEP sub-grantees, not to exceed two (2) months. The continuation allocations will be based on PY 2005 position levels. Ms. McMurtry stated the continuation funding would ensure that no current SCSEP enrollee is displaced while USDOL and OSA work to clarify guidelines pertaining to the equitable distribution of authorized positions in Michigan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Verma to approve the PY 2006 Title V SCSEP Allocation and seconded by Commissioner Rau. The Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

Lengthy discussion followed with Chairperson Kennedy asking for clarification on how this action would impact Operation Project ABLE. Ms. McMurtry responded that OSA issues a grant to Operation Project ABLE as part of SCSEP, but the grant is for a different purpose than the funding of SCSEP enrollees. Operation Project Able is funded with SCSEP administrative funds. Chairperson Kennedy also asked for clarification as to if this motion overrides the SCSEP allocations approved by the CSA in May. Ms. McMurtry responded that the motion on the table involved the allocation of PY 2006 SCSEP funds, while the actions taken in May were for PY 2005.

Mr. Holliace Spencer further explained the grant to the Commission, citing the program is administered through Title V of the Older Americans Act and the USDOL. OSA must work with the national sponsors to distribute the authorized positions equitably across the state. The tentative planning figures released were problematic in that some larger regions were going to lose a significant number of positions, resulting in lay-offs. The federal regulations indicate this is unacceptable. Commissioner Verma asked for detail regarding the SCSEP administrative funds. Mr. Spencer explained that funding for SCSEP comes from the Administration on Aging and USDOL. OSA is allowed to expend some funds to administer the program.

Mr. Spencer further explained that there were a few larger regions that were going to have to do layoffs and in the federal regulations this is unacceptable. Mr. Spencer stated that this is one reason they are requesting approval of the funds at a continuation level so there will be no layoffs. It will also allow OSA to get clarification regarding the federal regulations on equitable distribution of positions.

Commissioner Rau asked if program administration is calculated as a percentage of the program funds. Ms. McMurtry stated that it is based on a percentage and OSA is allowed up to 13.5% for administration of the program. OSA maintains a portion of the administrative funds and distributes the remainder to the area agencies on aging.

Commissioners Leung asked how the money is allocated to the sub-grantees, if it is by the number of positions or number of people. Ms. McMurtry stated it is based on the number of positions.

Commissioner Walters expressed relief that the decision had been made to seek continuation given that Region 7 would have experienced a 42% reduction in the number of SCSP positions. He was also aware that Region 1-B would have experienced a 29% reduction, causing great hardships for the older workers enrolled in the program.

Commissioner Bollinger asked if the current situation is something that happens on a regular basis within SCSEP. Ms. McMurtry responded that this is not normal and added that a number of program changes, including the minimum wage increase, has made it difficult to balance multiple priorities within the program. Ms. McMurtry further explained the “equitable distribution” of positions is based on the 2000 U.S. Census by county, which makes it difficult to match available positions with low-income older adults who may not live in the same county where the positions are available. As a result, some under-expenditure of funds has occurred in the past couple of years. Commissioner Verma asked if any unspent funds are carried over. Ms. McMurtry stated that SCSEP regulations prohibit carry-over from one program year to the next and any unspent funds will be returned to the federal government. Ms. McMurtry emphasized that OSA is monitoring expenditures very carefully and will be working to re-program funds as issues arise.

Commissioner Harb stated that since the federal government uses census data to distribute most federal funds it is important the Commission advocated for full participation in the next census to ensure that our

demographics are accurately represented. As the next census is only four (4) years away, it's not too early to start. Commissioner Guilfoyle remarked that a recount would be necessary to challenge the census data prior to a new census and that would be a very expensive process.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Senior Refugee Support Project

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, made a presentation to the Commission regarding the Senior Refugee Support Project with assistance from Al Horne, Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Refugee Services; Christie Tyler, Senior Neighbors, Inc. in Grand Rapids; and, Tina Abbate Marzolf from Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

Ms. McMurtry stated that five AAAs receive funding for outreach to older refugees. In addition to AAA 1-B and Region 8 (AAA of Western Michigan), Tri-County Office on Aging (Region 6), The Senior Alliance (Region 1-C) and the Detroit AAA (Region 1-A) also receive funds. OSA administers the Senior Refugee Support Project through a grant awarded to DHS from the federal Office of Refugee Services for the purpose of improving outreach and access to services for the older refugee populations in these planning and service areas. Mr. Horne gave a detail overview of the Refugee Act of 1980. The panel provided information to the Commission on the work they had done to meet the program goals and the impact of that work on older refugees. The panel also discussed some of the issues and barriers encountered in trying to identify older refugees in the community and assist them in accessing the services needed. The panel stated language barriers, trust, extreme poverty, and lack of healthcare were some of the issues that needed to be considered in serving this population. The panel also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Older Refugee Outreach Program given the knowledge gained, relationships established and experiences in working with this population.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Verma expressing his appreciation to all who worked with the refugee project and their efforts to help these older adults access services given their dire needs. Commissioner Harb also thanked the AAAs for their work in raising public awareness about the needs of older refugees and efforts to demonstrate new strategies for meeting these needs. Commissioner Harb further commented the knowledge and experience gained would be useful to other AAAs in their efforts to become more culturally competent.

Mr. Spencer supported Commissioner Harb's comments stating the aging network benefited as much from this project as the older refugees served. Mr. Spencer further stated the information and materials developed would be disseminated to the remaining AAAs.

Discussion continued on how the activities and services funded through the project will be sustained after the grant is no longer available. Ms. McMurtry responded that all participating AAAs would be developing plans to address this issue in the coming year.

Commissioner Wilson thanked the panel for their efforts in making a difference for older refugees. Chairperson Kennedy also thanked the panel and DHS for their involvement in the refugee project.

Approval of the State Advisory Council Charge

Sally Steiner, OSA staff reported that "In-Home Services: Infrastructure", was the highest priority identified by commissioners in the second-level vote on the 2006 SAC charge. The Commission approved the 2006 State Advisory Council Charge of In-Home Services: Infrastructure unanimously by voice vote.

Nursing Home Care as Part of the Long-Term Care Continuum

Commissioner Rau gave an insightful presentation on nursing home care as part of the long-term care continuum. Commissioner Rau gave a brief background regarding his involvement with nursing homes. He also noted that while older adults prefer to remain at home, the need for nursing home care would not

decrease given the demographics of our population. This will be especially critical as the number of people with dementia increases.

To meet this need, Commissioner Rau urged everyone to work together to ensure that a continuum of high quality long-term care is available in Michigan. Commissioner Rau also discussed how the role of nursing homes has changed over the past years. In addition, to providing long-term care, nursing homes also serve an important function as rehabilitation centers, with nearly one-third of the population turning over each year. Commissioner Rau talked about trends regarding nursing homes in the last five years and provided a summary of nursing facility days by ownership for 2004, total nursing home and Medicaid days of care, and Michigan nursing facility occupancy. Commissioner Rau also shared information for Michigan nursing homes and rankings for the United States. Discussion followed on a variety of nursing home issues in light of proposed changes in Medicaid and LTC reform. Commissioners thanked Commissioner Rau for the very informative presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A copy of the May Corrective Plan of Action progress report from The Senior Alliance was included in each Commissioner packet.

Chairperson Kennedy announced that Commissioner Wilson has agreed to represent the Commission as a judge for the Senior Citizen of the Year Awards Program.

Commissioner Walters stated the Sanilac County Senior Fair would be on Friday, June 23.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on July 21, 2006, at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing. Chairperson Kennedy also stated that OSA would be conducting an AAA Multi-Year/Annual Implementation orientation session for commissioners following the regular CSA meeting. This orientation is scheduled in preparation for presentation of the new area plans at the August and September commission meetings.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be held on June 22, 2006, 9:30 a.m., at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing, with Commissioner Bollinger attending as guest Commissioner.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bollinger and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.